





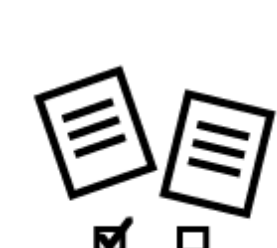



Superfund Process




Discovering the Contamination

-  **Site Discovery**
-  **Preliminary Assessment/Site Inspection**
-  **National Priorities List (NPL)**

Defining the Risks and Cleanup Options

-  **Remedial Investigation (RI)**
-  **Feasibility Study (FS)**
-  **Evaluation Criteria**

Deciding How to Clean Up

-  **Proposed Plan**
-  **Public Notice**
-  **Record of Decision (ROD)**

What happens after the Record of Decision?

After the Record of Decision, EPA will negotiate with potentially responsible parties to design and construct the option(s) selected to clean up Portland Harbor (the “site remedy”). Once cleanup begins, EPA will conduct a review every five years to determine if the cleanup activities are protective of people and the environment. The community will be notified and asked to provide any information, issues or concerns about the remedy. EPA will remove Portland Harbor from the National Priorities List when cleanup levels are met and operation and maintenance is complete. Finally, the previously polluted land could be returned to productive ecological, recreational, public service, residential, agricultural or commercial uses.

Portland Harbor Update

EPA notified of possible releases of hazardous substances into Portland Harbor in 1997

Initial testing of soil, water and fish in 1998

Listed on the NPL in 2000

Remedial Investigation

Human Health and Ecological Risk Assessments completed in 2013

Feasibility Study

Proposed Plan

Public Comment Period

Record of Decision

Portland Harbor Superfund Site



Where is Portland Harbor?

It is located on the lower Willamette River, approximately between the Broadway Bridge in downtown Portland and Sauvie Island. People work along the river and also use it for recreational activities such as fishing, boating and swimming.

Why should I be concerned?

Studies show there are contaminants at Portland Harbor that pose unacceptable risks to people, fish and wildlife. In 2000, Portland Harbor was named a Superfund site. Superfund sites are areas where toxic chemicals have been suspected of being released into the environment and EPA determines an investigation of the type and severity of such releases is needed. EPA also researches who may be responsible for the contamination.



Monthly EPA Portland Harbor update community meeting.



Portland Harbor Study Area site map.

How did it get contaminated?

Over the past century, contaminants have been released into the water and onto the shoreline surrounding Portland Harbor. The following contaminants have been found at many in-water and shoreline areas of Portland Harbor as well as in fish:

- Metals, including lead, arsenic, chromium and cadmium
 - Pesticides, including DDT
 - Polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), a banned coolant fluid
 - Polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), a combustion product
 - Dioxins and furans, byproducts of industrial processes
- EPA and other partners are planning cleanup of Portland Harbor. The goal is to have a Harbor that is cleaner, fish that people can eat with lower risk, and beach areas that can be safely enjoyed by the community.



Photo of oil boom across Gasco site near Steel Bridge; tar body in foreground.

Photo of oil boom across Gasco site near Steel Bridge; tar body in foreground.

EPA Community Involvement Coordinator

EPA Project Manager



What are the risks to people?



What is being done to clean it up?

EPA is reviewing options to clean up Portland Harbor that are presented in a document called the Feasibility Study. Options include removing the contaminated sediments (river mud), treating the contaminants in place, covering or capping the contaminated sediment and allowing new sediment to naturally cover the contaminated sediment over time.

Who pays for the cleanup?

EPA’s policy is to have the responsible parties pay for cleaning up pollution they created. Responsible parties can be past or present company owners, or land owners that EPA determines played a role in the contamination of the Portland Harbor. Under Superfund law, EPA may negotiate with the responsible parties to get them to pay for the plans and work necessary to clean up the site. If an agreement cannot be reached, EPA may take legal action to force them to clean up the site under EPA supervision. EPA may also use money from the Superfund Trust Fund to pay for cleanup costs, then attempt to get the money back through future legal action.

How do I get involved and stay informed?

Don’t wait! Contact us if you would like to have group discussions, need education materials, or want to share ideas. Visit EPA’s website to sign up for email notification of public information sessions, events and updates.

Sign up for updates on
EPA’s Portland Harbor Web page:
www.epa.gov/region10/portlandharbor



Portland Harbor River Festival.

Attend Community Advisory Group (CAG) meetings, second Wednesday of every month at 6:00 p.m.
www.portlandharborcag.info